

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
T	560



Town Lexington

Address 353 Concord Avenue

Historic Name Joseph Underwood House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1815?

Burgess 1965:85;

Source Hudson 1913, II:715

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric vinyl siding

Outbuildings barn (demolished 1948);

six greenhouses (demolished 1973)

Major alterations (with dates) two-story

rear ell; one-story ell to the right;

chimney rebuilt (1952)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 7921 ft.²

Setting On residential street with

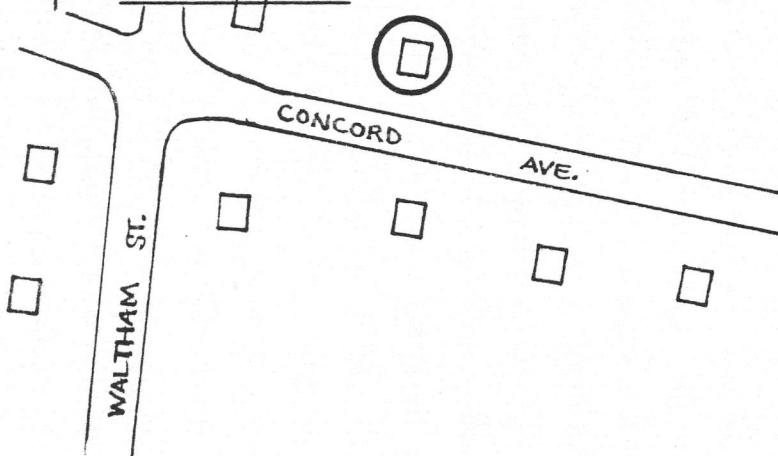
continual traffic; abutting recent town-

house development on land formerly

associated with this house.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date February, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

One of the six surviving Federal farmhouses on or in the immediate vicinity of what was the Cambridge-Concord Turnpike (see Concord Avenue area form), this house is very similar in profile to those at 389 Concord Avenue and 945 Waltham Street (see forms for these buildings). Like them, this house has two rear chimneys but has otherwise lost most of its exterior Federal finishes: the foundation has been cemented over, an entryway added, and a window over the entry probably removed. The east side (shown in the accompanying photograph) has one window on each story; the west side has two.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to an antiquarian account, this house was owned in the early nineteenth century by Joseph Underwood. This is apparently the same Joseph Underwood who built the Cutler farmhouse (see 503 Concord Avenue form). He sold that house to his mother-in-law Mary Underwood in 1815 (Burgess 1965:85), which suggests a logical date for the building of this one, and a house is shown in this location on the 1830 map.

Joseph Underwood was a mason and employed several men. He was a selectman in 1809 and was also a noted singing teacher who gave lessons all over town and for many years led the singing in the meeting house. He died in 1845 and in 1846, during an auction in the house of his possessions, the floor collapsed and all the people and goods fell into the cellar; no one was seriously hurt, however. By 1852 the house was owned by a G.W. Kuhn and in 1876 by a A.B. Shedd; in 1889 it was owned by M. Bryant and apparently occupied by Whitney Foster and in 1906 it was owned by Edward Bryant, a farmer. A 1923 photograph shows it virtually the same as it is now except for vertical window panels in the entryway.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Burgess, Marjorie Cutler. A Genealogy of the Cutler Family of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1634-1964. Concord, New Hampshire: Evans Printing Company, 1965.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, Volume II, p. 715. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End" (1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II (1900):109.

Lexington Historical Society, Burr Church Collection

1830 map

1852 map

1853 map

1876 map

1889 map

1906 map